

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE**

ROBERT KESSLER, Plaintiff, -vs- APNA INVESTMENTS GROUP L.L.C. Defendant.	Cause No. 2:21-cv-83 AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF
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COMES NOW, Plaintiff, ROBERT KESSLER (hereinafter the “Plaintiff”), through undersigned counsel, pursuant to FRCP Rule 15(a)(1), hereby files this Amended Complaint within 21 days of service of the original Complaint (DE 1) and sues APNA INVESTMENTS GROUP L.L.C, a Washington Limited Liability Company, (hereinafter, “Defendant”), for injunctive relief, attorney’s fees and costs (including, but not limited to, court costs and expert fees), pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12181, et. seq., commonly referred to as the “AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT” or “ADA” and alleges:

JURISDICTION AND PARTIES

1
2
3 1. This is an action for declaratory and injunctive relief pursuant to Title III of the
4 Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12181, et. seq., (hereinafter referred to as the
5 “ADA”). This Court is vested with jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1331 and §1343.
6

7 2. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 in that all events
8 and procedures giving rise to this Complaint occurred in this judicial district.

9 3. At the time of Plaintiff’s personal visit to Defendants’ public accommodation, prior
10 to instituting he instant action, Robert Kessler (hereinafter referred to as “Kessler”), was a resident
11 of the State of Washington, and suffered from what constitutes a “qualified disability” under the
12 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and used a wheelchair for mobility due to this disability.
13 Plaintiff has an amputated leg. He is required to traverse with a wheelchair and is substantially
14 limited to performing one or more major life activities including, but not limited to walking,
15 standing and maneuvering.
16

17 4. The Plaintiff personally visited, on or about October 20, 2020 Defendants’ premises
18 open to the public, but was denied full and equal access to, and full and equal enjoyment of the
19 facilities, services, goods, privileges and accommodations offered to others without disabilities;
20 because of his disability requirements. Plaintiff lives in King County, Washington and travels in
21 the surrounding areas near Defendants’ facilities on a regular basis for shopping, dining and
22 entertainment.
23

24 5. Upon information and belief, APNA INVESTMENTS GROUP L.L.C., a
25 Washington Limited Liability Company or Corporation, is the lessor and/or owner operator of the
26 real property and/or premises that are the subject of this lawsuit, commonly referred to Pacific
27

1 Chevron, located at 14413 Tukwila International Blvd., in Tukwila, Washington. Defendant own,
2 leases, leases to, or operates a place of public accommodation as defined by the ADA and the
3 regulations implementing the ADA, 28 CFR §36.201(a) and §36.104.

4
5 6. At this time the Tenant, if separate entity from Defendant Apna Investments Group
6 LLC, is unknown.

7
8 **COUNT I – VIOLATIONS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

9 7. On or about July 26, 1990, Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act
10 (“ADA”), 42 U.S.C. §12101, et. seq. Commercial enterprises were provided one and a half years
11 from enactment of the statute to implement all its requirements. The effective date of the Title III
12 of the ADA was January 26, 1992. 42 U.S.C. §12181; 20 C.F.R. §36.508(a).

13
14 8. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12181(7) and 28 C.F.R. §36.104, the Subject Facility and
15 real property in this case is a place of public accommodation under the ADA in that they are
16 establishments which provide goods and services to the public.

17 9. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12181(7) and 28 C.F.R. §36.104, the building and/or
18 premises which is the subject of this action is a public accommodation covered by the ADA and
19 which must be in compliance therewith as of the date of the Plaintiff’s visit.

20
21 10. The Plaintiff is informed and believes, and therefore alleges, that the Subject
22 Facility has begun operations and/or undergone remodeling, repairs and/or alterations since
23 January 26, 1990 and more specifically on or after March 15, 2012 as it pertains to 28 C.F.R. §
24 36.406.

25
26 11. Defendants have discriminated under the ADA, and continue to discriminate,
27 against the Plaintiff, and others who are similarly situated, by denying full and equal access to, and

1 full and equal enjoyment of, goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or
2 accommodations at Defendants' Subject Facilities in derogation of 42 U.S.C. §12101, *et. seq.*, and
3 as prohibited by 42 U.S.C. §12182 *et. seq.*, and by failing to remove architectural barriers
4 pertaining to the Plaintiff's disability pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12182(b)(2)(a)(iv), where such
5 removal is readily achievable.
6

7 12. The Plaintiff has been unable to, and continues to be unable to, enjoy full and equal
8 safe access to, and the benefits of, all accommodations and services offered at Defendants' Subject
9 Facilities. Prior to the filing of this lawsuit, the Plaintiff visited the subject properties and was
10 denied full and safe access to all the benefits, accommodations and services of the Defendants.
11 Prior to the filing of this lawsuit, Kessler, personally visited Pacific Chevron, located at 14413
12 Tukwila International Blvd., in Tukwila, Washington, with the intention of accessing Defendants'
13 facilities, but was denied full and safe access to the facilities due to the inactions of removing
14 applicable barriers. Plaintiff intends to return to the Defendant's premises and public accommodate
15 upon the premises being made ADA compliant for access, but is currently deterred from returning
16 due to these barriers. As such, Plaintiff is likely to be subjected to reencountering continuing
17 discrimination at the premises unless it is made readily accessible to and usable by individuals
18 with disabilities to the extent required under the ADA, including the removal of the architectural
19 barrier which remain at the premises.
20
21

22 13. Pursuant to the mandates of 42 U.S.C. §12134(a), on July 26, 1991, the Department
23 of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, promulgated Federal Regulations to implement the
24 requirements of the ADA, known as the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
25 (hereinafter "ADAAG"), 28 C.F.R. Part 36. Defendants facilities do not comply with these
26 Guidelines.
27

15(a). Failure to provide ADA compliant parking stall striping and markings, in violation of 2010 ADAS Section 502.3.3 and/or 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The premises failed to have compliant parking stall striping and markings by having dilapidated and in need of repairs which Plaintiff requires as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair due to the Plaintiff's disability and such handicapped accessible parking stalls are necessary. Said barrier is covered by the A.D.A. guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such architecture.

15(b). Failure to provide ADA compliant parking stall width at the subject property in violation of 2010 ADAS Section 502.2 and/or 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The premises failed to provide compliant parking stall widths for disabled parking which Plaintiff requires as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair due to the Plaintiff's disability and such handicapped accessible parking stalls are necessary. Said barrier is covered by the A.D.A. guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such architecture.

1 15(c). Failure to provide ADA compliant cross slope grading at the subject property in
2 violation of 2010 ADAS Section 502.4 and/or 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The
3 premises failed to have compliant wheelchair accessible cross slope grading as slopes exceed 2%
4 as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair for mobility. Said barrier is covered by the A.D.A. guidelines
5 and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such architecture.
6

7 15(d). Failure to provide ADA compliant parking stall signage, in violation 2010 ADAS
8 Section 502.6, and/or 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The premises failed to have
9 compliant parking stall signage as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair due to the Plaintiff's disability
10 and such handicapped accessible parking stalls are necessary. Said barrier is covered by the A.D.A.
11 guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such architecture.
12

13 15(e). Failure to provide ADA compliant parking access aisles at the subject property in
14 violation of 2010 ADAS Section 502.3.1 and/or 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The
15 premises failed to provide any compliant parking access aisles measuring a minimum of 5 feet
16 wide which Plaintiff requires as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair due to the Plaintiff's disability and
17 such handicapped accessible parking stalls are necessary. Said barrier is covered by the A.D.A.
18 guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such architecture.
19

20 15(f). Failure to provide ADA compliant parking access aisle cross slope and running slope
21 at the subject property in violation of 2010 ADAS Section 502.2 and/or 1991 ADA Standards for
22 Accessible Design. The premises contains non-compliant parking access aisles with excessive
23 cross and running slopes which Plaintiff requires as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair due to the
24 Plaintiff's disability and such handicapped accessible parking stalls are necessary. Said barrier is
25 covered by the A.D.A. guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such
26 architecture.
27

1 15(g). Failure to provide ADA compliant accessible route from accessible parking spaces
2 to the accessible building entrance in violation of 2010 ADAS Section 206.2.1 and/or 1991 ADA
3 Standards for Accessible Design. The premises failed to have a compliant accessible route from
4 accessible parking spaces to the accessible building Plaintiff requires as Plaintiff utilizes a
5 wheelchair due to the Plaintiff's disability and such architecture is necessary. Said barrier is
6 covered by the A.D.A. guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such
7 architecture.
8

9 15(h). Failure to provide ADA compliant accessible route width clearance in violation of
10 20013 WSBS Section 1101.2.2. The premises failed to have a compliant accessible route width
11 from accessible parking spaces to the accessible building Plaintiff requires as Plaintiff utilizes a
12 wheelchair due to the Plaintiff's disability and such architecture is necessary. Said barrier is
13 covered by the A.D.A. guidelines and Washington guidelines and is in nonconformity with the
14 requirements for such architecture.
15

16 15(i). Failure to provide ADA compliant transaction counters height at the subject property
17 in violation of 2010 ADAS Section 904.4.1 and 904.4.2 and/or 1991 ADA Standards for
18 Accessible Design. The premises failed to have a compliant transaction counters with compliant
19 height restrictions for wheelchair access as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair for mobility. Said barrier
20 is covered by the A.D.A. guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such
21 architecture.
22

23 15(j). Failure to provide ADA compliant accessible merchandise reach range, throughout
24 the subject facility, in violation of 2010 ADAS Section 308.1 and/or 1991 ADA Standards for
25 Accessible Design. The premises failed to have compliant accessible merchandise reach ranges
26 for wheelchair access as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair due to the Plaintiff's disability and such
27

1 handicapped accessible parking stalls are necessary. Said barrier is covered by the A.D.A.
2 guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such architecture.

3 15(k). Failure to provide ADA compliant point of sale, merchandise, and display reach
4 range, throughout the subject facility, in violation of 2010 ADAS Section 308.1 and/or 1991 ADA
5 Standards for Accessible Design. The premises failed to have compliant point of sale,
6 merchandise, and display reach ranges for wheelchair access as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair due
7 to the Plaintiff's disability and such handicapped accessible parking stalls are necessary. Said
8 barrier is covered by the A.D.A. guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such
9 architecture.
10

11 15(l). Failure to provide access to and use of ADA compliant restroom facilities,
12 including, but not limited to, compliant restroom door, signage, hardware, the required restroom
13 maneuverability clear floor space, toilet and lavatory clear floor spaces, entry door clear floor
14 space, accessible grab bars, accessible dispenser heights, and mirror height, in violation of 2010
15 ADAS Section 213.2 and/or 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The premises
16 contained multiple non-compliant features for wheelchair access as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair
17 for mobility. Said barrier is covered by the A.D.A. guidelines and is in nonconformity with the
18 requirements for such architecture.
19
20

21 16. The above-referenced barriers will likely cause a repeated real injury in fact in a
22 similar way if not remedied when the Plaintiff frequents this property again as described
23 previously. Each of these barriers interfered with the Plaintiff's full and equal enjoyment of the
24 facility and deterred Plaintiff from encountering all applicable barriers at the premises by failing
25 to allow Plaintiff the same access due to the Plaintiff's disability as those enjoy without disabilities.
26
27

1 17. Upon information and belief, there are other current non-compliant barrier access
2 violations of the ADA at Defendants' premises, which may only be discovered and properly
3 identified once a full inspection of the premises is completed and identified due to Plaintiff being
4 deterred from discovering each and every barrier as a result of encountering the above-listed
5 violations.
6

7 18. As of the date of the filing of this suit, the readily achievable barriers and other
8 violations of the ADA still exist and have not been remedied or altered in such a way as to
9 effectuate compliance with the provisions of the ADA. The barriers to access at the premises, as
10 described above, have severely diminished Plaintiff's ability to avail Plaintiff of the goods and
11 services offered at the Subject Facilities, and compromise Plaintiff's safety.
12

13 19. Pursuant to the ADA, 42 U.S.C. §12101 *et. seq.*, and 28 C.F.R. §36.304, the
14 Defendants were required to make the Subject Facility, a place of public accommodation,
15 accessible to persons with disabilities since January 28, 1992. To date, the Defendants have failed
16 to comply with this mandate.
17

18 20. The Plaintiff has been obligated to retain the undersigned counsel for the filing and
19 prosecution of this action. The Plaintiff is entitled to have his reasonable attorney's fees, costs and
20 expenses paid by the Defendants, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12205.

21 21. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12188, this Court is vested with the authority to grant the
22 Plaintiff's injunctive relief; including an order to alter the subject facilities to make them readily
23 accessible to, and useable by, individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA and
24 closing the subject facility until the requisite modifications are completed.
25

26
27 **COUNT II: WASHINGTON LAW AGAINST DISCRIMINATION**

1 22. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all allegations in the paragraphs above.

2 23. Plaintiff is a qualified individual with a disability within the meaning of the
3 Washington Law Against Discrimination.

4 24. Section 49.60.030(1) of the Revised Code of Washington provides in pertinent part:
5 “The right to be free from discrimination because of . . the presence of any sensory, mental, or
6 physical disability . . is recognized as a declared to be a civil right. This right shall include, but not
7 be limited to . . . (b) the right to the full enjoyment of any of the accommodations, advantages,
8 facilities, or privileges of any place of public resort, accommodation, assemblage, or amusement .
9 . .”
10

11 25. Defendants have violated and continue to violate §§ 49.60.010 *et seq.*, of the
12 Revised Code of Washington by violating multiple accessibility requirements under the ADA.
13

14 26. Defendants’ actions constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities and
15 violate the Washington Law Against Discrimination, Revised Code of Washington §§ 49.60.010
16 *et seq.*, in that persons with mobility disabilities have been and are denied full and equal
17 enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, and services that Defendant
18 provides to individuals who do not have disabilities.
19

20 27. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ discriminatory conduct as alleged
21 in this Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief, the Plaintiff has suffered and continues
22 to suffer difficulty, hardship, isolation, and segregation and is denied the full and equal
23 enjoyment of services that the Washington Law Against Discrimination requires due to
24 Defendant’s failure to remediate barriers.
25

26 28. Defendants’ property does not comply with the ADA’s accessibility laws and
27 regulations.

30. Pursuant to RCW § 49.60.030(2), Plaintiff is entitled to declaratory and injunctive relief and to recover from Defendants, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing this action.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff hereby demands judgment against the Defendants and the Court declare that

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1 E. The Court award reasonable attorney's fees, all costs (including, but not limited to
2 court costs and expert fees) and other expenses of suit, to the Plaintiff; and

3 F. The Court award such other and further relief as it deems necessary, just and proper.
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5
6 DATED this 16 February 2021

7 Respectfully submitted,

8
9 /s/ M. William Judnich

10 M. William Judnich

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